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PRAISES ITALIAN INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON

President Reagan said Friday night he's all for a full investigation into the assassination attempt against Pope John Paul, but he never mentioned the possible Soviet connection.

Speaking to the Conservative Political Action Conference at a black-tie dinner, the president called the attack on the pope in 1981 "an act of unspeakable evil, an assault on man and God" and "an international outrage" that merits "the fullest possible investigation."

"Tonight, I want to take this opportunity to applaud the courage and resourcefulness of the government of Italy in bringing this matter to the attention of the world."

Then Reagan departed from his prepared text to add: "Contrary to what you may have heard, there's no one on our side feeling embarrassed because they are going ahead with that investigation."

Secretary of State George Shultz, who addressed the audience earlier, was asked about the matter and said there was no truth to recent published reports that the CIA was seeking to discourage an investigation into alleged Soviet involvement.